

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 02983 141138 Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 141105 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8311

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2983

EXDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ITALIAN APPROACH ON CSCE

1. IN CONVERSATION EVENING APRIL 13 SECRETARY GENERAL FONOFF AMBASSADOR GAJA SUGGESTED THAT ALLIANCE SHOULD NOT RUSH HEAD-LONG INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS. HE REMARKED THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO CONSIDER JUNE DATE FOR CSCE MINISTERIAL MEETING AS IMMUTABLE. GAJA SAID ITALIANS BELIEVE THAT WESTERN EUROPE SHOULD HAVE GREATER POLITICAL COHESION FOR NEGOTIATING WITH SOVIETS. WHEN IT WAS NOTED THAT THIS PROPOSAL SOUNDED LIKE OLD ITALIAN PLAN FOR PHASED WESTERN EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL UNITY WHICH SURFACED SEVERAL YEARS AGO WHEN CES WAS FIRST BEING CONSIDERED, GAJA ADMITTED THAT THERE WERE SOME SIMILARITIES THOUGH EARLIER PLAN HAD BEEN PERHAPS TOO AMBITIOUS.

2. GAJA TALKED ABOUT THE NEED TO GO BEYOND PRESENT ACTIVITIES OF DAVIGNON COMMITTEE. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE EC MEMBERS MIGHT ADOPT A LIST OF TOPICS ON WHICH POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS AMONG THEMSELVES WOULD BE MANDATORY. SUCH A METHOD WOULD CREATE A SYSTEMATIC FRAMEWORK FOR CONSULTATIONS WITHOUT REQUIRING A JURIDICAL BASE FOR POLITICAL COOPERATION WHICH PROBABLY COULD NOT BE AGREED AT THIS TIME. FONOFF PROFESSIONAL VIEW HAS TENDED TO BE RELUCTANT TO SEE PREMATURE CSCE MINISTERIAL MEETING WHICH MIGHT CREATE EUPHORIC POLITICAL CLIMATE IN ITALY.

3. WE BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE THAT ITALIANS MAY RAISE QUESTION OF DELAYING JUNE CSCE MEETING DURING THE WASHINGTON VISIT -- IF NOT AT LEVEL OF PRINCIPALS THEN GAJA MAY RAISE THE IDEA IN SIDE
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PAGE 02 ROME 02983 141138 Z

MEETINGS WHICH HE INDICATED ARE BEING SET UP FOR HIM. BEAUDRY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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